SCALE SYSTEM FOR USE WITH A MOVABLE TABLE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED PATENT APPLICATIONS

[0001] This patent application is a continuation of copending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/333,746, filed June 15, 1999, allowed. now Patent. No. 6,725,755

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0002] The present invention relates to a scale system for use with a movable table and, in particular, to measure the position of a rip fence on a table saw having a movable auxiliary table portion.

[0003] Tables that are used for various purposes are often provided with an auxiliary table that moves relative the stationary main table. In certain applications, scale systems are used to position the movable table a specific distance from a point designated on the stationary table. In addition, separate units can be used with the table where the unit is movable relative the table. Similarly, scale systems are used to position the movable unit at a specific position relative the designated point.

[0004] Table saws that have a movable rip fence often use a scale system to position a movable auxiliary table or rip fence. Table saws of various designs include a base and an upper cutting surface having an opening through which a blade extends. The upper surface supports a material, such as wood, as it is pushed toward the blade for cutting. Table saws have traditionally been stand-alone pieces of equipment that are used in workshops. Because most stand-alone table saws are used in large open spaces, the dimensions of the table saw can be large enough to support materials of various sizes for cutting.

[0005] Tables saws that are used in workshops are not readily moved from one location to another. At construction sites, it is useful to have a table saw that can be easily moved from one location to another or between different construction sites. Accordingly, smaller and portable table saws have been designed. These table saws use lighter materials and have reduced the dimensions of the base and the upper surface to reduce the size and weight of the

1